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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SHIPPING AND STORAGE BRANCH MEMORANDUM NUMBER 55.1

Disposition of Damaged Frozen Meat Products

General

A. The procedure outlined herein shall be followed in disposing of damaged or unsound frozen meat products.

II Rejection of Shipment

A. Preliminary inspection report

1. When a shipment is received in an allegedly unsound condition, the local Shipping and Storage representative shall immediately request the local representative of the Meat Inspection Division to make an inspection of the shipment, except in the New York area. If no inspector is available, telephone the Claims Division (Republic 4142, Extension 4959) in Washington to make the necessary arrangements for the inspection by the Livestock and Meats Branch.

a. In the New York area, the request for an inspection shall be made direct to the Regional Chief, Shipping and Storage, inasmuch as an Inspector of the Market News and Grading Division of the Livestock and Meats Branch is assigned to the Shipping and Storage Branch in New York. If that inspector suspects unsound condition in the shipment a request shall be made by the Shipping and Storage Branch Regional Office to the local representative of the Meat Inspection Division, Livestock and Meats Branch, for inspection as provided in III, B, 2, of this memorandum.

2. Two copies of the preliminary inspection report of the Meat Inspection Division shall be mailed by the Inspector in charge to the Chief, Meat Inspection Division, Washington, on the date of inspection, except in the New York area.

3. In the New York area, distribution of the preliminary inspection report shall be as follows:

a. Two copies delivered to the Regional Chief, Shipping and Storage, one copy of which is to be immediately forwarded to the Claims Division in Washington.

4. The Claims Division in Washington shall be advised by telephone by the Shipping and Storage Branch representative (furnish complete identity of shipment) when such action is deemed necessary to protect the interest of the Government.
 - a. In addition the Claims Division in Washington shall be advised promptly, by mail, outlining the reason the shipment went out-of-condition. Essential data includes complete identity of shipment; dates shipped; date refused; daily icing records; defects in car; condition of meat; and reason for any delays in handling of the car.

III. Disposition of Shipment

A. Notification to carrier

The carrier shall be advised by the Shipping and Storage Branch Regional Office or Outport Representative, by telephone, that a specific car (or unsound portion of the shipment if preliminary inspection shows part of the shipment acceptable) has been rejected to them and that in the interest of food conservation the shipment is to be placed in cold storage for their account.

- a. Confirm the above telephone notice in writing immediately.
- b. Send a copy of the written notice to carrier to the Claims Division in Washington.

3. Placing shipment in storage

1. The shipment shall be placed in cold storage on the date rejected in every possible instance. The Storage Division in Washington shall be requested to designate cold storage space and to issue reconsignment or new order number for the rejected shipment, except in the New York area.
 - a. In the New York area, cold storage space will be designated by the Shipping and Storage Regional Office and the reconsignment or new order number requested from the Storage Division in Washington.
 - b. In the New York area, arrangements should be made with the warehouse to provide preferential unloading.
 - c. The Claims Division in Washington shall be notified by telegraph by the Shipping and Storage Branch representative regarding name and location of cold storage and date to be unloaded, except in the New York area.

2. Joint inspection of the shipment rejected on account of unsoundness shall be made by the carrier representative and an inspector from the Meat Inspection Division, Livestock and Meats Branch, at the time the car is unloaded into cold storage. Request for inspection by Meat Inspection Division shall be made by the Claims Division in Washington, except in the New York area.
 - a. In the New York area, the Shipping and Storage Regional Office shall request the joint inspection.
 - b. Segregation of the commodity shall be made as unloaded to determine the quantity suitable for export after refreezing and the quantity to be salvaged.
 - c. The carrier shall be requested to furnish to the Shipping and Storage Regional Office or Outport Representative a copy of their OS&D Report on the damaged shipment for transmittal to the Claims Division in Washington.
 - d. Two copies of the inspection report of the Meat Inspection Division shall be mailed by the Inspector in charge to the Chief, Meat Inspection Division, Washington, on the date of inspection, except in the New York area.
 - e. In the New York area, the two copies of the inspection report shall be furnished to the New York Regional Office (one copy for transmission to Claims Division, Washington) and one copy to Chief, Meat Inspection Division, Washington, by the Inspector in charge.

C. Final Disposition

1. The Claims Division in Washington shall secure a determination as to the final disposition from the Livestock and Meats Branch, notify the Storage Division regarding amount of sound product available for reshipment and quantity rejected, and the Procurement and Price Support Branch when necessary regarding product to be sold.


Elton W. Landen

Chief, Shipping and Storage Branch

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